

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows, comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user
6 interaction;
7 b) associating the second application window with the viewport in response to
a second user interaction; and
c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the viewport is
positioned over the hidden information.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein a third application window obscures the hidden information within the second window.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) includes displaying a portion of the
2 hidden information.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating step (a) includes providing an
2 application viewport tool.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 (d) relocating the viewport wherein a first portion of the display
3 occupied by the viewport and displaying the hidden information is restored to a normal
4 display of the first application window upon moving the viewport to a second portion of
5 the display that is not contiguous with the first portion.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2 (d) capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport
3 wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in
4 response to a user interaction.

1 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

2 (e) relocating the viewport from a first portion of the display to a
3 second portion of the display; and

4 (f) continuing to display the invariant hidden information within the
5 viewport.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the viewport can be resized.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the viewport includes a plurality of
2 viewports.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button.

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1 11. A system for displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display
2 screen displaying a plurality of application windows, a first window of the plurality of
3 application windows obscuring the hidden information within a second window of the
4 plurality of application windows, comprising:

5 means for creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first
6 user interaction;

7 means for associating the second application window with the viewport in
8 response to a second user interaction; and

9 means for displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the
10 viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

11 12. The system of claim 11, wherein a third application window obscures the
12 hidden information within the second window.

13 13. The system of claim 11 wherein the displaying means includes means for
14 displaying a portion of the hidden information.

15 14. The system of claim 11 wherein the creating means includes means for
16 providing an application viewport tool.

17 15. The system of claim 11 further comprising:
18 means for relocating the viewport wherein a first portion of the display
19 occupied by the viewport and displaying the hidden information is restored to a normal

4 display of the first application window upon moving the viewport to a second portion of
5 the display that is not contiguous with the first portion.

1 16. The system of claim 11 further comprising:
2 means for capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport
3 wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in
4 response to a user interaction.

CI 1 17. The system of claim 16 further comprising:
2 means for relocating the viewport from a first portion of the display to a
3 second portion of the display; and
4 means for continuing to display the invariant hidden information within the
5 viewport.

6 18. The system of claim 11 wherein the viewport can be resized.

1 19. The system of claim 11 wherein the viewport includes a plurality of
2 viewports.

3 20. The system of claim 11 wherein the viewport includes a minimize all
4 button.

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1 21. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for
2 displaying hidden information on a display screen, the display screen displaying a plurality
3 of application windows, a first window of the plurality of application windows obscuring
4 the hidden information within a second window of the plurality of application windows,
5 the program instructions comprising the steps of:

6 a) creating a viewport as a topmost window in response to a first user
7 interaction;

8 b) associating the second application window with the viewport in
9 response to a second user interaction; and

10 c) displaying the hidden information in the viewport whenever the
11 viewport is positioned over the hidden information.

12 22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein a third application
13 window obscures the hidden information within the second window.

C1 23. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein step (c) includes
14 displaying a portion of the hidden information.

15 24. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the creating step (a)
16 includes providing an application viewport tool.

17 25. The computer readable medium of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

2 (d) relocating the viewport wherein a first portion of the display
3 occupied by the viewport and displaying the hidden information is restored to a normal
4 display of the first application window upon moving the viewport to a second portion of
5 the display that is not contiguous with the first portion.

1 26. The computer readable medium of claim 21 further comprising the step of:

2 (d) capturing the hidden information displayed within the viewport
3 wherein the hidden information displayed within the viewport becomes invariant in
4 response to a user interaction.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 26 further comprising the steps of:

2 (g) relocating the viewport from a first portion of the display to a
3 second portion of the display; and

4 (h) continuing to display the invariant hidden information within the
viewport.

1 28. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the viewport can be
2 resized.

1 29. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the viewport includes
2 a plurality of viewports.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the viewport includes a minimize all button.

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31. A method for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of

5 application windows being obscured, comprising the steps of:

a) creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction; and

b) displaying at least a portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

10 32. A system for viewing hidden windows on a display including a plurality of application windows, a portion of at least one application window of the plurality of application windows being obscured, comprising:

means for creating a viewport displayed as a topmost application window in response to a user interaction; and

15 means for displaying at least a portion of the at least one application window being obscured in the viewport.

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